



EC Pharmacy Access Program: Information for Pharmacists

Massachusetts (MA) law allows pharmacists to be specially trained to dispense Emergency Contraception (EC) to women without a prescription under a standing order from a physician. You can help women back up their birth control with EC!

Why should pharmacists provide pharmacy access to EC* under the MA law if it's now available over-the-counter (OTC)?

- Pharmacists can help expand EC access to women who cannot purchase EC OTC, including women under 17, or without proper ID, or who need a prescription for insurance purposes (such as women on MassHealth).
- You will not have to turn away women who are seeking EC to prevent an unintended pregnancy.

Signing up to participate is as easy as 1–2–3!

1 Complete an accredited training program

- Online training is available through Northeastern University at www.rxce.neu.edu; click the "Home Study (Online) Programs" link and set up a free account to enroll.

2 Obtain a standing order from a physician

- Obtain a model standing order online at www.mass.gov/emergencycontraception.
- Find a physician to sign the order or contact the Massachusetts Department of Public Health Family Planning Program for help locating one at ec-pharmacy@state.ma.us.

3 Submit the order with the Board of Registration in Pharmacy and register your pharmacy online

- Send a copy of your signed standing order by certified mail to:
Board of Registration in Pharmacy
239 Causeway St., Suite 200
Boston, MA 02114
- Register your pharmacy with the statewide sexual helpline and website Maria Talks so that all women know they can obtain EC at your pharmacy! You can do this by sending your pharmacy's name, phone number, and MA town in which you are located to **Maria Talks** by calling 1-877-MA-SEX-ED (1-877-627-3933) or by email to mariatalks@acc.org.

You are ready to dispense!

How can I find out more about the Pharmacy Access Program in Massachusetts?

- Visit www.mass.gov/emergencycontraception or
- Contact the MDPH Family Planning Program at ec-pharmacy@state.ma.us or 617-624-6060

** **Emergency contraception (EC)** is a safe and effective way to prevent pregnancy after unprotected sex. EC can be used up to 5 days after unprotected sex, but is most effective when used as soon as possible. EC is **not** the abortion pill (mifepristone or RU-486) and will not harm a woman's body or her pregnancy if pregnancy occurs despite use.*

